

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement which the Examiner imposed, Applicant elects with traverse, to prosecute claims 1-6, 8 and 9 *i.e.*, the Group I claims.

The Examiner divided the claims into three species, asserting that the inventions are unrelated as having different modes of operation, different functions or different effects. However, Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims are directed generically to modifying a gain of a first or a second portion of a differential signal to affect the longitudinal signal. Group II claims call for an apparatus for first amplifier and a calibration unit to adjust the gain of a first or a second portion of a differential output signal to affect a longitudinal balance. Group III claims calls for a subscriber line and a line card to modify a gain of a first or a second portion of a differential signal to affect the longitudinal signal. The subject matter of three groups of claims are sufficiently related to prosecute them together. In fact, the Examiner had already prosecuted all of these claims during two previous office actions. It would not be an undue burden on the Office to allow for prosecution of the three alleged species. It is erroneous to restrict the claims of the present application since they are all related to a generic concept, therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Groups I, II, and III, should be prosecuted together.

Further as described in the response to the previous office action, all claims of the present invention are allowable.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the arguments set forth herein.

In light of the amendments and arguments provided herein, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-6 and 8-31 of the present invention are allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. The **Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney** at (713) 934-4069 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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